

HOUSE No. 2829

By Mrs. Paulsen of Belmont, petition of Anne M. Paulsen and others for legislation to establish educational and recreational “out-of-school time” programs for children of the Commonwealth. Children and Families.

The Commonwealth of Massachusetts

PETITION OF:

Anne M. Paulsen	Alice K. Wolf
Kay Khan	Barbara A. L’Italien
Benjamin Swan	Bruce E. Tarr
Cory Atkins	Matthew C. Patrick
Deborah D. Blumer	Steven A. Tolman

In the Year Two Thousand and Five.

AN ACT TO PROMOTE THE HEALTHY DEVELOPMENT OF CHILDREN AND YOUTH.

Be it enacted by the Senate and House of Representatives in General Court assembled, and by the authority of the same, as follows:

1 Chapter 6A of the General Laws is hereby amended by
2 inserting after section 16 the following section:—
3 Section 16. (a) It is hereby declared to be the goal of the com-
4 monwealth to support children, youth, and families by estab-
5 lishing a comprehensive, coordinated system to support and
6 maintain care, educational, recreational, arts, health, community
7 service, and other opportunities (hereunder called “out-of-school
8 time” or “OST” services) during out-of-school hours for children
9 and youth in communities. The purpose of this act is to assure
10 accessible, affordable, safe and quality OST services that promote
11 learning and social development of children and youth before and
12 after school, on weekends, and during school and summer vaca-
13 tions that are responsive to community needs; encourage collabo-
14 ration among parents, providers, schools, and community
15 members in every city and town; to expand and enhance existing

16 resources to do so; and enhance each city and town's efforts to
17 better integrate these services.

18 (b) Each city and town in the Commonwealth shall be awarded
19 an annual appropriation from the general fund based upon the
20 number of children and youth ages five (5) through eighteen (18)
21 as documented by the current US census or another reliable popu-
22 lation survey instrument that is more current than the most recent
23 census. The per child/youth reimbursement shall be no less than
24 fifty dollars (\$50) per child/youth in each community, and in com-
25 munities where there is a significant percentage of children and
26 youth deemed "at risk", cities and towns will be eligible to receive
27 no less than one hundred dollars (\$100) per child/youth annually.
28 The annual reimbursement per child and youth may be increased
29 annually by the state legislature depending on available funding
30 appropriated in the state budget.

31 (c) There shall be not more than one proposal funded for service
32 to each municipality, provided that two or more municipalities may
33 establish a joint council. The proposal shall be created by an out-of-
34 school time and youth development council appointed by the chief
35 executive officer of the municipality and comprised of the chief
36 executive officer of the municipality, or his/her designee, the super-
37 intendent of schools or his/her designee, the chief of police or his/her
38 designee, a representative of the local child care resources and
39 referral agency, three parents of school-age children and youth, three
40 youth representatives, and representatives from OST and youth
41 development agencies, cultural institutions, the business community,
42 religious organizations, and other non-profit organizations concerned
43 with the healthy social and cognitive development of school-age
44 children and youth. The chief executive officer shall receive nomina-
45 tions from the related local trade associations, provider associations,
46 and parent organizations to select the council members as appro-
47 priate. Council members shall be broadly representative of the racial
48 and ethnic diversity of the community, and decisions by the council
49 shall be made through a participatory decision making process. An
50 existing community-based council, such as a school-linked services
51 local partnership, a community partnership council established under
52 section fifty-four, as amended by section twenty-six of chapter
53 thirty-eight of the acts of nineteen hundred and ninety-five, a health
54 education advisory council, or some other council or coalition con-

55 cerned with care and education, family support or preventative pro-
56 grams may be broadened or merged to meet the intent of this section
57 and the aforementioned membership requirements.

58 (d) The council shall select a lead agency, which may be the
59 municipality, the school district, or a community-based organiza-
60 tion concerned with the delivery of OST and youth development
61 services in the community. The council shall create a proposal
62 which the lead agency shall submit to the Executive Office of
63 Health and Human Services. The lead agency may subcontract
64 with other public and private agencies to provide the services
65 described in the submitted proposal. Each city and town shall be
66 eligible to receive this funding pending the positive review of
67 each municipality's proposal by the Executive Office of Health
68 and Human Services (EOHHS) and fulfillment of the local match
69 requirement as established in subsection (e).

70 (e) Each municipality shall be required to provide an annual
71 local match to receive said funding equaling 100% of the funds
72 pursuant to this section. The match may include funding provided
73 by the municipality, private funds awarded to a collaborating
74 organization for the purpose of implementing activities described
75 in said proposal or related efforts to supplement said activities,
76 and/or in-kind services provided by the municipality, school dis-
77 trict, and/or other collaborating agencies and institutions.

78 (f) Proposals shall demonstrate a collaboration among health
79 and social service providers, OST and youth development pro-
80 grams, the schools and/or other learning institutions to best meet
81 the needs of children and youth and address the schedules of
82 working parents in said community during non-school hours. The
83 lead agency may undertake and/or subcontract with another
84 agency to assist the council with appropriate planning activities
85 which may include needs and/or resource assessments, including
86 the needs of children and youth for services during out-of-school
87 time based on surveys, interviews, and focus groups with potential
88 program participants, parents, and service providers. OST and
89 youth councils are encouraged to develop collaborative programs
90 that coordinate services from various providers whenever such
91 coordination can enhance the quality and increase the efficiency
92 of services offered at the program and community level. Councils
93 may support new program and community-wide initiatives as well

94 as expand existing programs. Councils are further encouraged to
95 develop proposals that include linkages to other human service,
96 health, education, public safety, and cultural and higher education
97 institutions and agencies which seek to combine a number of
98 local, state, and/or federal public funding sources as well as pri-
99 vate resources as appropriate. Proposals shall demonstrate that no
100 state funds expended under this grant program shall replace
101 existing funding for existing services.

102 (g) Seventy-five percent (75%) of the funds awarded annually
103 to said community shall be used to support program level costs
104 associated with quality improvement and supply-building activi-
105 ties, including start-up costs of new OST and youth development
106 programs. Quality improvement activities may include: profes-
107 sional development; program enhancement activities to support
108 increased learning and literacy opportunities for children and
109 youth, arts and cultural, recreational programming, health and
110 mental health services; parent education and engagement; and
111 program accreditation and/or program evaluation efforts. The
112 remaining twenty-five percent (25%) of the funds awarded annu-
113 ally to said community may be used to support community-wide
114 programming and community level infrastructure needs to support
115 OST and youth development program delivery including but not
116 limited to: system-wide professional development, parent educa-
117 tion and training, program evaluation, community coordination,
118 facilities improvements, and transportation. Costs associated with
119 the lead agency's responsibilities in coordinating these funds may
120 also be supported with these funds.

121 (h) Proposals pursuant to this section shall include, but not be
122 limited to, the following: a statement of need; a description of the
123 planning activities and/or process to identify unmet needs and
124 existing resources; program goals, objectives, and an implementa-
125 tion plan for proposed activities; a plan to document program out-
126 comes and evaluation; a budget detailing the activities to be
127 supported with said funds; contractual agreements and/or docu-
128 mentation of linkages and/or funding arrangements with other
129 public and private agencies; and documentation of the local match
130 required to receive said funding from the Executive Office of
131 Health and Human Services.

132 (i) The EOHHS may expend funds for the administration of this
133 program including the provision of technical assistance to local
134 councils, collecting and distributing information to communities
135 concerning programs for school-age children and youth, and the
136 activities associated with the review of proposals, the distribution
137 of funds, and the monitoring and evaluation of the funding pro-
138 gram. EOHHS shall also collaborate with the Office of Child Care
139 Services, the Department of Education, the Department of Public
140 Health, and any other appropriate state agencies to better integrate
141 and coordinate the expenditure of state and federal funds at the
142 state and local level to better serve school-age children and youth.

143 (j) The Executive Office of Health and Human Services shall
144 appoint a state advisory council on care and education of school-
145 age children and youth during non-school hours. Members of the
146 advisory council may include, but are not limited to parents,
147 school-age children and youth, school personnel, and representa-
148 tives of state human service agencies, OST and youth providers,
149 higher education, business, labor, philanthropy, religious institu-
150 tions, and government. Council members shall be broadly repre-
151 sentative of the ethnic, racial, and geographic diversity of the
152 commonwealth. The council shall study future trends and
153 promising practices for the delivery of out-of-school services to
154 school-age children and youth, identify which populations have
155 the greatest need for services, evaluate to what degree these popu-
156 lations are served by the program created in this section as well as
157 by other existing services, and shall develop strategies for serving
158 underserved segments of the population. The state advisory
159 council shall report its findings to EOHHS not later than January
160 first of each odd-numbered year. The state advisory council shall
161 review the regulations established by EOHHS in conjunction with
162 the funds pursuant to this section. And review program evalua-
163 tions and program standards, and make recommendations to
164 EOHHS of needed program changes. EOHHS shall report on the
165 progress of OST and youth development services for school-age
166 children and youth during non-school hours and make recommen-
167 dations to the general court by filing the same with clerks of the
168 House of Representatives and of the Senate on or before June thir-
169 tieth of each year.